

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3-4, 7-11, 18-21, 28-31, 40 and 42-43 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 5-6, 36-39 and 41 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 7-9, 28, 40 and 42 are amended.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); and/or (3) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

Applicant sincerely acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 6-10 and 18-21 define patentable subject matter. However, for at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 11, 28-31 and 36-47 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Publication No. US2002/0044014 to Wright. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that allowable subject matter has been incorporated. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 28 and 40 define patentable subject matter for at least reasons similar to claim 18.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits claims 1, 28 and 40 are allowable, and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable for at least that reason as well as their additionally recited features. Claims 2, 5-6, 36-39, 41 and 44-47 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 11, 28-31 and 36-47 under §102 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Carl R. Wesolowski**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of

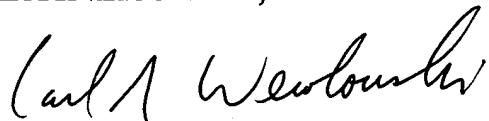
Serial No. 10/621,470

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Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2005

this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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